UK VISA REQUIREMENTS

All nationals of the countries and territories listed below in **red (underlined)** need visas to enter or transit the UK.

All nationals of the countries and territories listed below in **black** need visas to enter or transit the UK landside.

All visa nationals may transit the UK without a visa (TWOV) in certain circumstances. Please see below for details.

### Airside Transit (where applicable)

Airside transit passengers are those who do not need to change airports and do not need to pass through the UK border. Passenger(s) cannot transit AIRSIDE to the Republic of Ireland or anywhere within the common travel area.

#### Transit without visa (TWOV)

All visa nationals seeking to transit the United Kingdom AIRSIDE without a visa must:

- (i) arrive and depart by air; and
- (ii) have a confirmed onward flight departing the same day from the same airport; and
- (iii) hold the correct documents for their destination (e.g. a visa for that country if required)

#### Nationals of the countries shown in **red (underlined)** above need a visa to transit AIRSIDE unless they hold one of the following:

- (i) a valid visa for entry to Australia, Canada, New Zealand or the USA (whether or not the holder is travelling from these countries); or
- (ii) a visa for entry to Australia, Canada, New Zealand or the USA as part of a reasonable journey from the country in respect of which the visa is held and is less than 6 months since the holder last entered that country with a valid entry visa. 
- (iii) a valid permanent residence permit issued by:
  - (a) Australia
  - (b) Canada, issued after 28 June 2002
  - (c) New Zealand
  - (d) USA issued after 21 April 1998; or a valid US Immigrant visa endorsed with a US arrival stamp (a wet-ink/ADIT stamp version will NOT be accepted by UK border control); or an expired I-551 Permanent Residence card provided it is accompanied by a valid I-797 letter authorising extension; or a standalone US Immigration Form 155A/155B (attached to a sealed brown envelope); or
  - (iv) a valid common format residence permit issued by an EEA state or Switzerland; or
  - (v) a valid common format category D visa for entry to an EEA state or Switzerland; or
  - (vi) a valid Irish biometric visa endorsed BC or BC BIVS (in order to transit to a destination other than the Republic of Ireland or the Common Travel Area); or
  - (vii) a valid Schengen Approved Destination Scheme (ADS) group tourism visa where the holder is travelling from a country that issued it; or
  - (viii) a valid airline ticket FROM the Schengen area; provided the holder can demonstrate they have no more than 30 days previously on the basis of a valid Schengen ADS visa

**NB:** E-visas or e-residence permits are not acceptable unless the airline is able to verify it with the issuing country.

The decision to allow a passenger to transit without a visa (TWOV) under the scheme is decided by an immigration officer at the UK border

### UK permanent residents

If a visa national is permanently resident in the UK they do not need a visa, as long as they return to the UK within two years of their last departure.

### Passengers with the right of abode in the UK

If a visa national has a ‘certificate of entitlement to the right of abode’ label in their valid passport they do not need a visa.

### Holders of non-national and refugee travel documents

If the passenger holds a refugee travel document issued by the UK they do not need a visa. If the passenger holds any other non-national or refugee travel document they need a visa to enter the UK. Whether holders of non-national and refugee travel documents require a direct airside transit visa (DATV) depends on their original nationality, and whether they qualify for one of the exemptions listed above. Persons recognised as stateless under the 1954 UN Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons are not required to hold a DATV and may transit without a visa

### Seaman

A seaman on a sailing voyage, or a seaman who is a visa national (including those in transit through the UK) does not need a visa if he holds a valid seaman’s book issued by one of these countries which also contains a statement that it is issued under ILO80 (or convention of 1958) or ILO105, having been previously ratified ILO105 (or convention of 2003); Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, China (People’s Republic of), Comoros, Congo (Kinshasa), Congo (Democratic Republic of), Cuba, Cyprus, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Korea (Democratic), Korea (Republic of), Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Latvia, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar (Burma), Nepal, Netherlands, Nigeria, North Korea, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman (Emirates), Pakistan, Palestinian Territories, Philippines, Qatar, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, São Tomé and Príncipe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, Tonga, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Vietnam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

### Landside Transit

Landside transit passengers are those who need to wish to pass through the UK border and enter the UK (e.g. to change airport, to collect baggage or arrive at airports where no airside transit is possible)

#### Transit without visa (TWOV)

All visa nationals seeking to transit the United Kingdom LANDSIDE without a visa must:

- (i) arrive and depart by air; and
- (ii) have a confirmed onward flight that departs before 23.59hrs the following day; and
- (iii) hold the correct documents for their destination (e.g. a visa for that country if required)

#### Nationals of all countries (RED (underlined) and BLACK above) need a visa to transit LANDSIDE unless they hold one of the following:

- (i) a valid visa for entry to Australia, Canada, New Zealand or the USA and a valid air information ticket via the UK as part of a reasonable journey TO that country; or
- (ii) a visa for entry to Australia, Canada, New Zealand or the USA and a valid air information ticket via the UK as part of a reasonable journey FROM that country; or
- (iii) a visa for entry to Australia, Canada, New Zealand or the USA as part of a reasonable journey FROM the country in respect of which the visa is held and is less than 6 months since the holder last entered that country with a valid entry visa;
- (iv) a valid permanent residence permit issued by:
  - (a) Australia
  - (b) Canada, issued after 28 June 2002
  - (c) New Zealand
  - (d) USA issued after 21 April 1998; or a valid US Immigrant visa endorsed with a US arrival stamp (a wet-ink/ADIT stamp version will NOT be accepted by UK border control); or an expired I-551 Permanent Residence card provided it is accompanied by a valid I-797 letter authorising extension; or a standalone US Immigration Form 155A/155B (attached to a sealed brown envelope); or
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  - (vii) a valid Irish biometric visa endorsed BC or BC BIVS (in order to transit to a destination other than the Republic of Ireland or the Common Travel Area); or
  - (viii) a valid Schengen Approved Destination Scheme (ADS) group tourism visa where the holder is travelling from a country that issued it; or
  - (ix) a valid airline ticket FROM the Schengen area; provided the holder can demonstrate they have no more than 30 days previously on the basis of a valid Schengen ADS visa

**NB:** E-visas or e-residence permits are not acceptable unless the airline is able to verify it with the issuing country.

### In doubt please telephone one of the numbers below for advice

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Airline</th>
<th>Telephone Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aberdeen</td>
<td>+44 3000 739455</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belfast</td>
<td>+44 28 944 84323</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birmingham</td>
<td>+44 121 665 1238</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bournemouth</td>
<td>+44 1202 579233</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bristol</td>
<td>+44 1225 100 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardiff</td>
<td>+44 1447 667 460</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Midlands</td>
<td>+44 300 073 8033</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edinburgh</td>
<td>+44 300 106 3509</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exeter</td>
<td>+44 1392 366492</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gatwick</td>
<td>+44 3000 739992</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glasgow</td>
<td>+44 141 582 5600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harwich Docks</td>
<td>+44 300 1065 543</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heathrow</td>
<td>+44 300 106 5154/55/56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newcastle</td>
<td>+44 191 286 0629</td>
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<tr>
<td>Norwich</td>
<td>+44 300 106 5005</td>
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<tr>
<td>Portland</td>
<td>+44 141 548 1448</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preston</td>
<td>+44 1257 865936</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robin Hood Airport</td>
<td>+44 1202 572715</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shrewsbury</td>
<td>+44 121 286 0539</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Produced by:** CARRIERS’ LIASON SECTION, HOME OFFICE

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